

---

HOUSE BILL 1738

---

State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Cody, Bailey, Schual-Berke, Fromhold, Woods, Upthegrove, Williams, Darneille, Kenney, Hunt, Campbell, Simpson, Tom, Hasegawa, Haler and Santos

Read first time 02/03/2005. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1            AN ACT Relating to an early detection breast and cervical cancer  
2 screening program; and adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) The legislature finds that Washington state has the highest  
7 incidence of breast cancer in the nation. Despite this, mortality  
8 rates from breast cancer have declined due largely to early screening  
9 and detection. Invasive cervical cancer is the most preventable type  
10 of cancer. The Pap test, used to detect early signs of this disease,  
11 has been called "medicine's most successful screening test." Applied  
12 consistently, invasive cervical cancer could nearly be eliminated. The  
13 legislature further finds that increasing access to breast and cervical  
14 cancer screening is critical to reducing incidence and mortality rates,  
15 and eliminating the disparities of this disease in women in Washington  
16 state. Furthermore, the legislature finds there is a need for a  
17 permanent program providing early detection and screening to the women  
18 and families of Washington state.

1 It is the intent of the legislature to establish an early detection  
2 breast and cervical cancer screening program as a voluntary screening  
3 program directed at reducing mortalities through early detection to be  
4 offered to eligible women only as funds are available.

5 (2) As used in this section:

6 (a) "Eligible woman" means a woman who is age forty to sixty-four,  
7 and whose income is at or below two hundred fifty percent of the  
8 federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal department  
9 of health and human services. Priority enrollment shall be given to  
10 women as defined by the federal national breast and cervical cancer  
11 early detection program, under P.L. 101-354.

12 (b) "Approved providers" means those state-supported health  
13 providers, radiology facilities, and cytological laboratories that are  
14 recognized by the department as meeting the minimum program policies  
15 and procedures adopted by the department to qualify under the federal  
16 national breast and cervical cancer early detection program, and are  
17 designated as eligible for funding by the department.

18 (c) "Comprehensive" means a screening program that focuses on  
19 breast and cervical cancer screening as a preventive health measure,  
20 and includes diagnostic and case management services.

21 (3) The department of health shall administer a state-supported  
22 early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program to assist  
23 eligible women with preventive health services. Eligible women shall  
24 be enrolled in the early detection breast and cervical cancer screening  
25 program and additional eligible women may be enrolled to the extent  
26 that grants and contributions from community sources provide sufficient  
27 funds for expanding the program.

28 (4) Funds appropriated for the state program shall be used only to  
29 operate early detection breast and cervical cancer screening programs  
30 that have been approved by the department, or to increase access to  
31 existing state-approved programs, and shall not supplant federally  
32 supported breast and cervical cancer early detection programs.

33 (5) The department shall establish a medical advisory committee  
34 composed of interested medical professionals and consumer liaisons with  
35 expertise in a variety of areas relevant to breast and cervical health  
36 to provide expert medical advice and guidance. The medical advisory  
37 committee shall address national, state, and local concerns regarding  
38 best practices in the field of early prevention and detection for

1 breast and cervical cancer and assist the early detection breast and  
2 cervical cancer screening program in implementing program policy that  
3 follows the best practices of high quality health care for clinical,  
4 diagnostic, pathologic, radiological, and oncology services.

--- END ---